

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF 1978 INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHERIES
AGREEMENT

1. CANADIAN DECISION NOT TO IMPLEMENT 1978 INTERIM RECIP-
ROCAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE IN CANADIAN
NATIONAL MEDIA JUNE 2 AND 3.

2. CBC EVENING TV NEWCAST JUNE 2 GAVE HEADLINE TREATMENT
TO FISHERIES STORY WITH REPORTS FILED FROM ALL QUARTERS.
OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT, BRUCE CAMERON, REPORTED THAT JAMIESON
AND LE BLANC HAD TAKEN ACTION BECAUSE OF A COMBINATION OF
FACTORS: A) THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WAS NOT WORKING; B)
BOTH SIDES WERE INTERPRETING THE AGREEMENT DIFFERENTLY;
C) IT WAS UNWISE -OR CANADA TO IMPLEMENT ITS SIDE OF THE
ACCORD SINCE IT WAS NOT CERTAIN IF U.S. SENATE WOULD
RATIFY. HALIFAX CORRESPONDENT FOCUSED ON SCALLOP PROBLEM
IN GEORGES BANK AREA. REPORT WAS MILDLY SYMPATHETIC TO
PLIGHT OF U.S. FISHERMEN AND NOTED THAT MOST SCALLOPS
CAUGHT BY CANADIANS IN THAT AREA WERE SOLD TO AMERICANS.
WEST COAST REPORT RAN CLIP SHOWING CANADIAN COAST GUARD
VESSELS OPERATING OFF B.C. COAST WITH COMMENTARY THAT
BEGINNING SUNDAY U.S. VESSELS IN CANADIAN WATERS WOULD BE
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CONTACTED AND INFORMED TO STOP FISHING BUT NO SEIZURES OR
ARRESTS WOULD BE MADE INITIALLY. ROUNDUP ENDED WITH
INTERVIEW IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OF REPRESENTATIVE DON BONKER
(WASHINGTON) WHO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE REGRETTABLE
CANADIAN ACTION REFLECTED POLITICAL HYSTERIA IN OTTAWA.

3. GLOBE AND MAIL HEADLINE STORY OF JUNE 3 EMPHASIZED

EAST COAST OVER-FISHING PROBLEMS AND WEST COAST COURT ORDER (WHICH, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN STAYED) AS CAUSATIVE FACTORS. SWIFTSURE CLOSURE REQUEST GIVEN ONLY AFTERTHOUGHT TREATMENT "THE UNITED STATES ALSO WANTED CANADA TO CLOSE SWIFTSURE BANK OFF THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA AS A CONSERVATION MEASURE. CANADA CLOSED THE BANK, WARNING THAT IT WANTED CONCESSIONS FROM THE AMERICANS IN RETURN. YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE BANK WOULD BE REOPENED TOMORROW." GLOVE AND MAIL'S HALIFAX CORRESPONDENT SAW BOTH SIDES LOSING IF BREAKDOWN LEADS TO A SELF-DEFEATING BATTLE BY THE TWO COUNTRIES TO OUTFISH ONE ANOTHER.

4. CBC RADIO NEWS DEPICTED WEST COAST CANADIAN FISHERMEN AS HAILING OTTAWA'S TOUGH POSITION WHICH WAS TAKEN "AS AN EFFORT TO PRESSURE U.S. FISHERMEN TO GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BARGAINING."

5. COMMENT: THE POLITICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF THE OTTAWA DECISION, PARTICULARLY THE PERCEIVED POLITICAL VULNERABILITY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY ON THE WEST COAST, HAVE YET TO BE REFLECTED IN CANADIAN MEDIA IN A MAJOR WAY. DUEMLING

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